

"The Truth of History."

A recent editorial article in the Harrisburg *Telegraph*, the immediate organ of the Camerons, father and son, repeated the often corrected claim of some of the less discreet of General Cameron's friends, that he was one of the few men who appreciated the magnitude of the rebellion at the beginning of the war, and wanted five hundred thousand troops summoned into the service at once. We assume that General Cameron himself is not a party to this claim of exceptional knowledge of the situation at the commencement of hostilities between the North and the South, for he well knows that the record is so conclusively against him on the issue that he would not permit himself to be exposed to the just criticism that such folly must provoke. Having corrected the error of the Harrisburg *Telegraph* in a recent article, that journal returns to the defense of its position, and in its issue of Monday says:

"The Philadelphia *Times* essays to dispute the statement of General W. W. H. Davis that had General Cameron's views prevailed at the beginning of the war, the first call for troops would have been for 500,000 instead of for 75,000. It was expected that the *Times* would attempt to deny this statement; and it was not less expected that McClure would essay to give himself and Curtin conjointly the credit for being the first in the nation to comprehend the wide-spread extent of the war.

"We are content to rest the question whether General Cameron urged that 500,000 volunteers be called out at the outbreak of the war on General Davis' testimony."

We pass over the characteristic reference to Governor Curtin and the editor of this journal, as we propose to present the facts bearing directly on the point of dispute, and to settle them so that they will be questioned hereafter only by ignorance or falsehood.

On the 15th of April, 1861, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for seventy-five thousand men to serve for the period of three months. The quota assigned to Pennsylvania was first sixteen regiments of infantry, and afterwards reduced to fourteen. Major General Patterson, of this city, was assigned to the command of "The Department of Washington," embracing the States of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland and the District of Columbia. General Patterson promptly repaired to Harrisburg to assume the responsible command assigned to him, and before he had any organized military force, the uprising in Baltimore, the hostile attitude of the population of that city and the destruction of the railroad bridges, severed all communication between the loyal States and their capital.

For some days General Patterson, who was the military commander of all the territory between Harrisburg and Washington, and specially charged with its protection, was without orders from General Scott or the Secretary of War, and unable to communicate with them in any way. The quota of Pennsylvania was promptly filled and a large excess of volunteers was offered to Governor Curtin. General Patterson describes the situation in his "History of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign," page 28, as follows:

"The interruption of all communication with Washington left me, in the absence of orders, to rely wholly on my own judgment as the Commander of the Department, and I then took a step by which I incurred very great responsibility, and although I received the implied censure of the War Department by the revocation of my order, as soon as they were able to communicate with the North, yet I have never regretted it, and I confidently appeal to subsequent events to justify my action."

The step referred to by General Patterson that called forth the "implied censure" of Secretary Cameron was his formal requisition upon Governor Curtin, dated April 25, 1861, in which he said:

"I feel it my duty to express to you my clear and decided opinion that the force at the disposal of this department should be increased without delay. I have, therefore, to request your Excellency to direct that twenty-five additional regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry be called for forthwith, to be mustered into the service of the United States."

Governor Curtin fully coincided with General Patterson in the call made upon him, and he at once issued his proclamation for men to fill the new requisition that would have placed forty thousand Pennsylvania troops in the field at once, and twenty-six thousand of them would have been without the excuse seized upon by some of the three months' men to march away from the first battle-field to the music of the enemy's cannon, because their term of service had expired. The response to Governor Curtin's call was prompt from every section of the Commonwealth, and the whole requisition would have been filled in a few days had not Secretary Cameron availed himself of the first reopening of communication with the North to notify General Patterson that his requisition for twenty-six thousand troops to serve for the war was unconditionally revoked, stating, to use the exact language of Secretary Cameron to General Patterson, that it was "more important to reduce than to enlarge the number" of the original call by the President.

The writer hereof well remembers the consultation that followed at the Executive Chamber, between General Patterson and his staff and the civil authorities of the State. There was but one judgment shared by all—that the troops would be needed, and John Sherman, then Senator and volunteer aid on General Patterson's staff, was instructed to confer with Secretary Cameron and convince him that the troops called for in Pennsylvania would be needed and should be accepted. What Secretary Cameron's views of the necessity for five hundred thousand troops were at that time, is best stated by Sherman's report to General Patterson after he had vainly pleaded for a large army. In his report, dated May 30, 1861, he says:

"I have had, as you suggested, an interview with the Secretary of War. He says that he cannot now accept any more regiments for the war; that no doubt the three years' men will be needed, but that the question of their acceptance for the war cannot be decided until near the expiration of the present enlistment. I feel well assured that if the aspect of affairs is not materially changed, these regiments will be accepted if within the next month they justify your confidence in them."

The troops proffered by Pennsylvania to serve "for the war" in response to General Patterson's requisition, were thus refused by Secretary Cameron because he preferred less than the original quota of three months' men to a larger number, and he would not even accept the proposed

re-enlistment of the three months' men for three years, as very wisely suggested by General Patterson. What was done with the men who had volunteered and reached Harrisburg in obedience to Governor Curtin's proclamation, is thus stated in his next message to the Legislature:

"Men more than sufficient in number to form some ten regiments of the Reserve Corps had, previous to the call of 15th May, been accepted by me in pursuance of a call on me (afterwards rescinded) for twenty-five regiments, and were then already assembled, and subject to my control. Most of these men volunteered for the Reserve Corps, and were immediately organized."

The refusal of Secretary Cameron to allow the three months' men in General Patterson's command to enlist "for the war," as was urged by Senator Sherman, made the army slow to accept discipline and unwilling to remain in the service after their terms expired. General Patterson wrote the Secretary of War from Charlestown, Va., on the 17th of July, that "the terms of service of the Pennsylvania troops (eighteen regiments) expire within seven days. I can rely on none of them renewing service." Again, on the 10th of July, he advised Secretary Cameron that "almost all the three months' volunteers refuse to serve an hour over their time." On the 21st of July the disastrous battle of Bull Run was fought, and the Union army hurled back upon Washington in utter demoralization—some of the Pennsylvania troops having left the field on the eve of the conflict because their terms had expired, and the War Department had refused to accept their enlistment, under Patterson's order and advice, to serve "for the war."

The troops rejected by Secretary Cameron were accepted by Pennsylvania and organized under a special law of the State directing the creation of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps. The State assumed all responsibility for the Reserve, appropriating three millions of dollars for the purpose, as the Secretary of War, himself a Pennsylvanian, not only revoked the order calling for their service, but declared that they were not needed. Most of these regiments were organized when the Bull Run defeat taught the country how the national authorities had failed to appreciate the magnitude of the war, and the President, the Secretary of War, and every sincere patriot in the land trembled for the safety of the capital. There were no reserves any place which had been provided by the Secretary of War, for they were uniformly declared to be unnecessary. It was then that the hearts of loyal men swelled up with gratitude to General Patterson and Governor Curtin, as the lightning flashed the news from State to State that the Pennsylvania Reserves were in readiness and on their march to Washington to reinforce the routed army of Bull Run; and never was such grateful music heard by President Lincoln, Secretary Cameron, and the affrighted host of Congress, as that of the steady step of the Pennsylvania Reserves as they marched along Pennsylvania avenue to re-inspire the decimated and almost despairing army that clustered on the Virginia heights opposite Washington.

Until January, 1867, when Governor Curtin retired from the gubernatorial chair, the orders of the Secretary of War and the correspondence between the State authorities and the War Department relating to the acceptance of the additional troops called for by General Patterson and proffered by Pennsylvania, were on file in the Military Department of the Commonwealth; but they have since then been abstracted from the records both at Harrisburg and at Washington. By whom it was done and why it was done, we do not assume to decide; but in the light of the now undisputed events of the war, it is most improbable that General Patterson or Governor Curtin was instrumental in abstracting those important pages from the military archives of the State and nation.

After eleven years' trial Congress has determined to repeal the Bankrupt law, and there is already a flood of petitions pouring in from people who wish to take advantage of its provisions during the short time still remaining. There can be little doubt, though the law is far from perfect, that its repeal will be followed by a worse state of things than now exists with regard to insolvent estates. In the absence of a general law applying to the whole country, the only statutes that come into operation are the State insolvent laws. These necessarily differ considerably from each other in detail; and in the light recently thrown upon the divergence of views as to the relation of debtor and creditor existing in different parts of the country, it may be predicted in the future that there will be more radical differences than ever. In lending States the law will be made to favor the creditor; in borrowing States, the debtor. But besides this, insolvent laws have no effect beyond State boundaries, and no such thing as a complete discharge of a bankrupt is possible under them, except after tedious and wasteful proceedings in the courts of every State in which he owes debts. Such a condition of things puts a premium on fraudulent preferences and all sorts of dishonest practices. One naturally asks, therefore, why, in the face of all these objections, the repeal is still insisted on. The answer to this, we believe, 1st, that unwise amendments made a few years ago destroyed the efficiency of the law; and, 2d, that there is in the United States at large an aversion to a general bankrupt law, which in ordinary times is always strong enough to prevent the retention of any statute on the subject. "Our people," as the Washington politicians say, "do not like bankrupt laws." We fear if this feeling were traced to its source, it would be found to spring from a suspicion that debtors are better off without than with such laws. The present act was passed at the close of the war, and its object was rather to enable debtors to get a complete discharge than to help creditors. Having secured this object the weight of the law begins to be felt, and a movement is set on foot for its repeal. This sort of bankruptcy see-saw has been going on from the very beginning of the Government, bankrupt laws being passed and repealed, not in pursuance of a far-seeing and comprehensive policy, but as a temporary make-shift from time to time, as legislation or the want of it makes itself uncomfortably felt.

Politeness.

Unselfish people are always polite, because good manners are only the absence of selfishness. They are the doing unto others as we would wish to be done unto. A thoughtfulness for the comfort of those about us, a pleasant smile, a kind word—these are the ingredients of which good manners are chiefly composed.

WAR OF 1812!

A NEW PENSION LAW!

Glad Tidings To Survivors and Widows!

The following is an abstract of the law granting pensions to soldiers and sailors of the war of eighteen hundred and twelve, and their widows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension-rolls the names of the surviving officers and enlisted and drafted men, without regard to color, including militia and volunteers, of the military and naval service of the United States, who served for fourteen days in the war with Great Britain of 1812, or who were in any engagement, and were honorably discharged and the surviving widows of such officers and enlisted and drafted men.

Sec. 2. Provides that the pension shall be at \$8 per month, no person to be entitled to two pensions; and also provides that the widow's pension shall stop if she remarries.

Sec. 3. Provides as to the manner of making proof, for the punishment of false witnesses and perjury in such claims—that the loss of a discharge shall not be a bar to pension, provided other proof can be made of service, and also provides that where any person has received a land warrant for services in the war of 1812, that it shall be *prima facie* proof of right to pension under this act.

Sec. 4. Provides that all applications heretofore or which may hereafter be made shall be considered as though made under this act.

All persons included in the above law should at once send names and addresses to GEORGE E. LEMON, Lock Box 47, Washington, D. C.

The lawyers in Congress are anxious for the repeal of the bankrupt act, because under the present national system their practice in the way of collections, adjustments, and consequent litigation in the State courts is interfered with. Unselfish patriots they claim to be, but unfortunately their course in these premises suggests a suspicion of looking out for No. One.

American Toys.

We have turned the tables on our neighbors. Not many years ago a large portion of the toys used by the children of America came from Europe. But now not only are the many inventions which have originated in our country sought by foreigners, but toys formerly made abroad are manufactured more cheaply here, and the Old World buys largely from the New. Last year the export trade in toys was over \$1,000,000. American steam toys have rapidly multiplied within a few years, and are exported in large quantities; also tin and wooden toys, which must excel European products in style, finish, and cheapness. Thus every year adds something to our progress.

Advantages of Conversation.

Conversation calls out into light what has been lodged in the recesses and secret chambers of the soul. By occasional hints and incidents, it brings old useful notions into remembrance; it unfolds and displays the hidden treasure of knowledge with which reading, observation, and study, have before furnished the mind. By mutual discourse the soul is awakened and allured to bring forth its hoards of knowledge, and it learns how to render them most useful to mankind. A man of vast reading, without conversation, is like a miser, who lives only for himself.

Slang.

It is lamentably easy to fall into the habit of using slang phrases. You first begin by using mild terms, such as "Good gracious!" "Mercy sakes!" etc. Soon you require something stronger, and still stronger, till, after using all the "by-words," you are on the brink of swearing, although, when you first began, you had no idea of such a thing. The habitual use of slang phrases should be classed with intemperance, and is generally found with it, as are also a great many other vices. Boys quickly form the habit by hearing their elders. Even the babe just learning to talk repeats them, and by some one is thought smart or cunning, and is even encouraged in it. In after life would not the parent have given worlds to have instructed the child differently?

Secluded.

Russian women lead very quiet lives. They go out of doors with their children, but seldom with their husbands; and a man is not expected to take notice of another man's wife by bowing to her when passing in the street. Married coquettes are seldom found among them.